

Accessing our Circuit Churches

In addition to circuit services, you can also access the following:

St David's Craig y Don Weekly worship is live-streamed, from 10am each Sunday via this link:

Conwy & Prestatyn Methodist Circuit Blog is accessed through this link: revbev.org.uk

and the Circuit website displays regular updates and information, found via this link:

<https://www.conwyprestatynmc.org.uk/>

Connexional resources which hold a multitude of resources, reflections, prayers and links to other live streamed services are found through this link: <https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/coronavirus/>

Contributions Welcome

We invite people to contribute to our circuit bulletin. Contributions could be in the form of reflections, book reviews, news on things that have been happening in your church, etc. Perhaps if you are responsible for creating a church newsletter you could send in articles from this? Please email them to cpmcoffice2@gmail.com

Change of Time

Please note that Carols by Candle Light on 19th December will start at 6.30pm not 6pm as stated in the DJF plan at St. John's Conwy.

Cytun

The latest Cytun Newsletter is available to read. You can read it via our website or by clicking [here](#).

Joint Public Issues Team "Faith in Politics" Podcasts

In the first episode of a new season, new hosts Beth and Ryan chat with Conservative MP Derek Thomas about the JPIT values of listening, kindness and truthfulness. They discuss everything from the tastiness of olives to whether there is any integrity left in politics.

[Click here to listen to the episode.](#)

Ruach Retreat

Christmas is coming - Great Expectations

As Christmas approaches, it seems there are more and more plates to spin. Keeping them spinning can pull us in different and conflicting directions. Christmas can be a joyful time, but is also one of the most stressful.

How about reflecting on the meaning of Christmas for a few hours?

Maybe this will help you to prepare to celebrate in a different way from usual and catch a fresh glimpse of God born among us.

We warmly invite you to join us for a short series of

ADVENT MEDITATIONS

to be held at Ruach Retreat on Saturdays 4th, 11th and 18th December.

There will be 2 identical sessions held each Saturday

10.00am-12 noon and 2.00-4.00pm.

Each session will include prayers, readings, sharing and refreshment and will stand alone – so come when you can.

Numbers will be limited – please email or phone to secure your place.

davidandzoya@ruachretreat.co.uk 01492 622279

LLYS GWYNT, OLD MILL ROAD, DWYGYFYLCHI, LL34 6TB

Safeguarding Training

We are pleased to offer a number of online training sessions for both the Foundation and Advanced Module over the coming months in the new year. These sessions are open to any and all who need to undergo or update their training. Please note that the Advanced Module requires some individual online learning to be completed before attending an online gathered session. Book onto courses via your church safeguarding Officer.

Bible Month 2022

There will be a wide variety of opportunities to engage with people across the Connexion to prepare for Bible Month 2022. Here are two things to help you prepare:

- Put 19th March 2022 in your diary for a special Webinar for preachers and worship leaders. This will be run as a hybrid event, live from Salisbury but people can participate from anywhere. We're going to be encouraging local preachers' meetings to select a venue in their circuit as a 'hub' where they can gather and participate together. A pack will be ready in the next couple of weeks with guidance on how to set up one of these hubs, as well as full information about the event.
- Start thinking about who in your circuit would benefit from having a hard copy version of the Bible Month magazine. We'll be running a subsidy scheme again this year for all the circuits in Wales. Further information about how to apply for support for your circuit will be sent to Superintendents and Local Preacher Secretaries in the new year. The magazine will (hopefully) be available in January.

We'll keep you up to date with more information as it comes in, but don't forget to check the Bible Month page on the Methodist website [Bible Month](#) and watch the promotional video for Bible Month 2022 [Bible Month 2022 Isaiah - YouTube](#).

An Article from The St David's and St John's Connection Magazine

Christmas Revisited

When Maria asked if I could contribute to this Christmas magazine I suddenly realised that Christmas 2021 would be my 80th experience of it! So I then started thinking about how varied those past Christmases had been. Beginning with large family gatherings in my childhood, on to more rumbustious activities in my teenage years, then smaller family gatherings in adulthood and last year, well, more like Darby and Joan because of Covid! That's not to mention the many and varied work, social and church Christmas events.

Cont....

So, after all those experiences, I began to think about how, in 2021, I could summarise what it all meant to me now. There are many stories in the Bible about what happened that first Christmas and we love to hear them each year. I know I do. There is something comforting and wholesome about them particularly when brought together in a crib tableau or a nativity play, despite some details not usually being very scriptural!

But what I want to concentrate on is what God's message to Joseph said in advance of the main event. The main event itself was, of course, a very particular birth, that of Jesus who was to become a recognised historical giant of a man (if his influence on society as a whole ever since is anything to go by). The name Jesus seemed nothing special at that time, quite a common one in fact. So why (according to the Christian scriptures) was God's message to Joseph that he must give the baby that name. For a very particular reason : "because he would save his people from their sins". That explains what he came to do but what that meant and what was involved in it was something for the future. In fact, about thirty years later when he was a young adult (and Christians celebrate this at Easter).

But what about in the meantime?

The Bible is quite a blank page about these years before his public ministry began (other than recording an incident that happened just before Jesus became a teenager). All we know is he was not an only child and an assumption that he probably worked in his father's carpenter's shop seems reasonable. But bearing in mind who he was I can't think that all those years were blank!

So, who was he? God's messenger had told Joseph Mary would be impregnated by the Holy Spirit. This makes Jesus God's son and here I think we have the first mention of the Trinity, confirmed by what the message went on to say about Jesus : "they will call him Immanuel (which means "God with us")". Yes, God on earth with us! So I don't think those first thirty years were blank for whatever happened during them I think Jesus even then would be showing to all something of the true nature of God.

The words "God with us" really capture my imagination. I see them as not only a good shorthand version of what happened at Christmas but also of what happened at Easter when Jesus accomplished the saving work he came to earth to do and at Pentecost when direct contact with God was first made available to everyone..... and a good shorthand version of my experience of life.

Life makes far more sense to me with God than without God : without him and his gospel message, what would be the point of it all? I don't know about you but my personal relationships (in my case with my wife , family and friends) are more precious to me than anything I do or own and allowing this God (who has so clearly shown his loving nature to us) into the equation not only enhances these relationships but brings others into the picture as well. So is this all "pie in the sky" or is it "heaven on earth"? Well, neither actually - at least not yet! Does it make life easier in times of difficulty, hardship, pain, sorrow, trauma? You might expect me to say yes but that would not be an honest answer. In my experience it sometimes does and sometimes doesn't and when it does it sometimes takes a long time to realise this.

That's my experience anyway. What I think it does is give you a sure and certain hope for the future however you feel now – and a faithful companion on the way who knows what it's like to be human. It's great to believe "God (is) with us" - it's even better to experience it for yourself here and now!

Jack Waddington, St David's.

Christmas Coffee Morning at Old Colwyn Church

Saturday 18th December 10.00 am -12.00pm

Come and join us for coffee, tea, mince pies and a chat.

Hot chocolate with marshmallows available! Donations for a hamper to raffle will be welcome!

Leap of Faith

[Read the latest Methodist blog](#) about why 3Generate really matters in the faith formation of children and young people as well as experiencing being part of the wider Church.

Conwy Food Bank Update December 2021

Feeding local people in crisis

Dear Supporters

The Team here at the Conwy Food Bank are hugely grateful to everyone for their very generous response to our appeal in the run up to Christmas for both donations and gifts. It is very heart warming to know that the community cares so much for people who are struggling in these difficult times.

In November the total number of parcels distributed was 144.

56 went to families with 133 children

72 went to single people

16 went to couples.

We send our warmest wishes and thanks to you all. The Conwy Food Bank Team

www.conwyfoodbank.co.uk

Conwy Food Bank Spyce Community Hub Rhiw Road LL29 7TE

Opening Hours 10-2pm

Grants Available

The “Allchurches Trust” is one of the UK’s largest grant-making charities. The Trust’s vision is to be one of the UK’s most impactful grant giving charities. Our mission is to equip and empower Christian organisations to have a positive and transformative impact on lives and communities. We welcome applications from churches and Christian charities from all parts of the UK and Ireland, particularly from areas of deprivation.

When considering applications, the Trust considers how well the aims of the project align with our areas of funding focus. These are:

- The repair, restoration, protection and improvement of church buildings, cathedrals and other places of Christian worship, especially where those changes support wider community use (note we also offer a roof protection scheme)
- Equipping Christian charities and churches to help the most vulnerable and tackle social issues, including homelessness, poverty, climate change and cultural cohesion
- Projects that support Christian leaders, locally and nationally, spiritually and numerically, and share the Christian faith
- Equipping Christian charities and churches to engage in innovative ways of working and in new and enhanced areas of activity that best meet the existing and emerging challenges facing communities
 - Transformative projects that enable a step change in the capacity, reach and impact of Christian organisations, with a particular focus on innovation, partnership and sharing learnings and best practice to enable the widest possible impact and benefit
 - Building development projects that seek to enhance the mission and ministry of the Methodist Church in the UK and Ireland
- Equipping Christian charities and churches to engage more young people more regularly and build lasting relationships that provide opportunities for individual, family, church and community flourishing
- Working with selected partners to preserve the UK and Ireland's rich history through funding to build and protect sustainable heritage skills (note that the heritage grants programme is not open to applications)

You can find out more at www.allchurches.co.uk

[A Methodist Exploration of Discipleship and Vocation](#)

This **free** 10 session online course is best suited for disciples who are questioning 'where next', or ready to delve deeper into what it means to follow Jesus, or have reached a turning point and are wondering where God is calling them next.

For full details, click [here](#) – and share it with those you know.

[Great Website](#)

Elizabeth Pass has shared the details of a website that she finds very useful indeed. John Trustcott is a church consultant and trainer who champions the ministry of **creative organisation**. He seeks to resource and encourage Christian leaders, trustees and administrators and is passionate about helping the Church to become effective for Christ in all it seeks to be and do. That especially applies in the ongoing Covid pandemic as we need, on a daily basis at present, to reassess the way we go about serving our Lord and his world.

This site explains:

John provides professional services to churches and mission agencies and the website has over 190 free **resources** on creative church organisation you can print or download - this will be the section that most people will want to aim for

On his website you can read about the **vision** that he prays for and works towards.
You can also [contact him](#) or [be added onto his resources mailing list](#).

There are many topics that are free to explore such as discipleship, fundraising, home groups, sermon ideas and planning.... The list is endless!

You can find the John Trustcott website [here](#) or via our circuit website.